Kansas PTA Bulletin

May—June  Volume 76, Issue 5
Newsletter of the Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers

94th Annual Kansas Convention
Snap Shots

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As I write this we have just concluded the 94th Annual PTA State Convention. It was exciting to have a great group of First Timer’s attend. Like I shared in the President’s workshop, I think I learn as much from the other delegates as I do from the workshop presenters. Training is the key to improving your unit. I’m glad you agreed with me and attended convention.

The summer packet will be on its way to you mid May – make sure you have submitted the New Officer Information form to the State PTA office.

I’m going to keep my article short this month – I want to save room to share some of photos from convention. Have a great summer – enjoy your children – they grow up all too fast!

Jan Long
Kansas PTA President

Region 2 Vice President Appointed!
Sheryl Peak of Great Bend has been appointed as the Region 2 Vice President. She will officially assume her duties July 1st – but will be working with Ernie Goerend the next couple of months to make this a smooth transition.

Sheryl has been very active at her elementary school and will make a great resource for the units in Region 2.

Her contact information is listed on page 15 and she can always reached by her email link on the Kansas PTA webpage under the About KS PTA tab – Board of Managers.

Please join me in welcoming Sheryl to the State PTA Board of Managers.

Jan Long
Kansas PTA President

CPR and AED Awareness Week
In December 2007, Congress passed a bill designating the first week of June as “National Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Awareness Week.” To showcase our commitment to this effort and to highlight June 1-7 as the inaugural CPR and AED Awareness Week, the American Red Cross goal is to reach 250,000 people during that week with CPR and AED information directly and through collaborations with instructors like you. More than two dozen chapters have submitted their plans for CPR and AED Awareness Week, and additional plans are in progress. Contact your local chapter today to find out how you can help support their efforts to reach more people with lifesaving training.

Denise Sultz
Kansas PTA Health and Wellness Chair

If you are no longer a PTA president, please notify the Kansas PTA State Office. Forward this and all mailings immediately to your successor.

KANSAS PTA BULLETIN
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HOW TO BUDGET FOR 2008–2009
(In One Page–or less)

Budget Do’s
Do make all decisions based on The Mission of PTA (see pg. 5 of this bulletin)
Do approve your budget at a general membership meeting.
Do review PTA Money Matters 2008 (Summer Packet 2008)
Do review KS PTA Treasurer’s Guide 2008 (Summer Packet 2008)

Budget Basics
Use Actual Historical Data – Know where you have been, and then you can plan for the future. Determine what was successful; what was a bust, what needs a year off, what’s realistic, what gives us the best return on volunteer time and energy?

Include input from committee chairs, officers and principals.
Be REALISTIC when setting goals and plans of action.
Know your obligations for the year, the services you are providing, and the fundraisers you are planning.
Keep the Monthly Report simple and complete.

MUST HAVE Line Items to include: (not limited to)
Insurance (bonding, liability, D&O)
Training - This includes Leadership, Council Training, Legislative Conference, State and National PTA Conventions).
Advocacy efforts (see mission statement)
Awards (students, teachers, volunteers)
State PTA Donations (Honorary Life Memberships, Wall of Fame)
Reflections and Citizenship Contests
Carryover or “Start up” funds for next year

For 990, 990 EZ and/or E-post card reporting: Gross receipts must be reported to the IRS through the filing of some form of the 990. Make sure you keep track of all grants, contributions, interest income, gross receipts from admission, merchandise sold, and services performed related to the charitable purpose. Basically, any and all monies that go into your checking account need to be accounted for on your financial statements and budget. So, if you are collecting money for a foundation (not recommended by State or National PTA), and running it through your bank account, it must be accounted for in your financial statements and on your 990 filing.

Budget Process
Identify Expenses
Core Programs
Support Services
Overhead Expenses (leadership training, awards, program supplies, office supplies, postage).
Make a “Wish List” of Programs you’d like to have

Identify Income (which better serves your membership?)
Ways your PTA raised money in the past
Fees – Do you need to raise them?
Add another fund raiser
Apply for grant
Request more volunteer time
Make a “Wish List” of what you would do with extra Income

Balance income and expenses: If your expenses outweigh your income, cut expenses or increase fundraising. If your income outweighs your expenses, you can provide more services or cut back on fundraising.

Always remember: A budget is a working document. It can be amended periodically during the year by a vote of the membership at a general meeting.

If you have questions or comments please contact Sharon Rakos, Kansas PTA Treasurer at 913-708-5501 or srakos@kc.rr.com.

Sharon Rakos
Kansas PTA Treasurer
New View on Legislation

My view of legislation was to always be informed about issues our legislators were dealing with. Then to update PTA members and letting them know when to contact their legislators. I effectively got a whole new view on legislation being in Washington D.C. on Capitol Hill. I attended the National PTA Legislative Conference the last of February in Washington D.C. I learned a great deal about legislation that I didn’t know before. It gets you to the point where you want to know more and get more involved to change things.

The first day was spent in a five hour legislative chair training. The four key emphases were:

- Attracting and motivating members in advocacy
- Building community support
- Planning State advocacy initiatives
- Facilitation skills

The second day was spent in workshops. Between 3 of us, we went to twelve different workshops. Here are some of the topics:

- How a bill becomes a law and about the federal budget.
- NCLB
- Making your voice heard
- PTA issues-an overview
- Working with the media
- Juvenile Justice
- Child Nutrition
- Arts Education

The third day was spent on Capitol Hill visiting with our legislators. We got to let them know how PTA stands with NCLB, funding for education, and the nutrition bill. We visited offices of Senator Brownback, Senator Roberts, Representative Tiahart, Representative Nancy Boyd, Representative Jerry Moran, and Representative Dennis Moore.

There will not be a whole lot going on in legislation with the elections around the corner. There are things to keep your eye on are:

- The Growth Act with no NCLB.
- Funding. Right now only .5% of the federal budget goes toward education.
- Getting the Nutrition bill passed. To get it passed, they are going to have to do more investigation on what is a nutritious lunch.

With the elections around the corner, you need to know what PTA can and cannot do around elections. Local PTA’s are non-profit organization and fall under the IRS election guidelines for non-profits. To help you decide what activities your local PTA will get involved in we have provided a few quick can and can’t.

**PTA Can:**

- Host a candidate’s forum: all candidates appearing on the ballot for a given position must be invited to participate and given equal time to respond.
- Publish a candidate’s questionnaire: all candidates must be given the opportunity to answer the questionnaire and responses must be printed exactly as written.
- Register Voters: volunteers must register all eligible voters regardless of party affiliation or political views.
- Remind members to vote
- Educate Candidates on Issues important to PTA

**PTA Can Not:**

- Invite only one candidate in an election to come speak to the PTA
- Tell PTA members to only vote for a candidate who supports X position
- Distribute any campaign materials on behalf of a candidate.
- Where campaign buttons or t-shirts during a PTA meeting

Jackie Waters
Kansas PTA VP of Advocacy
Legislative

This time of year your PTA nominating committee is looking ahead and putting into place those who will serve as your unit’s officers and board members in the coming year.

We strongly encourage each unit to recruit someone to serve as your unit’s legislative chair. The role of a PTA legislative chair is a significant one. She or he will be the person of your unit primarily responsible for educating and inspiring your PTA unit’s members to fulfill the third listed Purpose of the PTA organization — “to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.” A well informed citizenry is essential in order to provide adequately for our children’s education and welfare.

Here is a summary description of what the duties of the job entail:
~ Become informed by taking advantage of training & resource opportunities
~ Receive on-going information via emails from National and Kansas PTAs
~ Educate your PTA’s members on legislative issues and the important role they play.
~ Establish an email tree for sharing PTA Legislative Updates and Alerts with other PTA members
~ Use the information received to give a brief legislative report monthly at your local unit’s PTA meetings
~ Submit advocacy/legislative articles to your PTA unit’s newsletter (may use “ready to go” fact sheets from Kansas PTA)
~ Contact lawmakers and communicate with decision makers

Grow leaders! Forming a legislative committee not only helps share the legislative responsibilities it also helps develop new legislative leaders!

Please do not let this important role go unfilled. Often this is a position that will interest dads, so you might consider recruiting one of them as a way to get more dads involved in your PTA. Most who serve as legislative chairs find it interesting and rewarding.

Whoever you recruit, ideally she or he should be someone who “gets” the PTA’s mission statement, which is to be “a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.”

Thanks!
Nancy Niles Lusk
Kansas PTA Legislative Chair

The PTA Mission

The mission of the PTA is threefold:
• To **support and speak on behalf of children and youth** in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
• To **assist parents in developing the skills** they need to raise and protect their children; and
• To **encourage parent and public involvement** in the public schools of this nation.
"The Benefits of including students on your PTSA board."

Lately I’ve noticed a lot more student involvement in PTA. In my opinion this is a wonderful thing. There are so many benefits to having students involved in PTA, especially serving on you boards. Two years ago as president of the Sumner Academy of Arts and Sciences PTSA, I invited students to serve on our Executive Board. It was fun and interesting to have them with us that year. They gave lots of feedback, provided manpower and offered the perspective of the “customer” that we service.

For the students, participating on PTSA boards has its rewards. They develop the ability to communicate with others in a team setting, plan and implement projects, assemble committees and delegate tasks. They will become comfortable working with adults as equal partners, a skill that is essential in today’s workforce. They will learn to think for themselves and become confident in expressing their thoughts and ideas. They will gain valuable experience that can be applied in the workplace or other organizations in which they may become involved.

Plus, this looks great on College entrance and Scholarship applications. They were also able to receive community service hours for their participation.

I placed information in the counselor’s offices about the Co-Chair positions that would be available to students. I had a few students call and tell me why they wanted to serve as Co Chairs on our PTSA board.

Two of my student Co Chairs were Andrea Vertz and Kayla Crowe. Andrea was my Founders Day Co Chair and she helped plan, set up and speak at the Founders Day program/meeting. Kayla was my Legislative Co Chair, she helped plan, and work a voter registration table for seniors turning 18. She attended the KPTA Legislative Conference in Topeka, and gave a legislative report at our next PTSA General meeting. The next year she served as the KCK Council of PTA’s Inspiration Chairman. Both are currently serving on the YAC (Youth Advisory Committee) for Kansas PTA.

By offering Co-Chair positions on you boards, you create one more opportunity for students to gain valuable leadership skills, and you could be growing future PTA leaders.

Consider having a few on your PTSA.

Patty Jurich
Kansas PTA Secretary

PTA members, parents and educators gathered in Salina, KS April 18 -20, 2008 for the 94th Kansas PTA Convention. Delegates attended to the business of the Kansas PTA in general meetings, attended workshops, visited with exhibitors, participated in the Silent Auction, enjoyed food and relaxation in the Hospitality Suite and purchased items from the PTA Store. All delegates learned about issues relevant to PTA and to our children, that can be taken back to their local units and shared.

Rachel’s Challenge gave a powerful workshop on Friday evening that won’t soon be forgotten and a workshop on Saturday morning. There were a total of 20 workshops for convention attendees to choose from and two pre-convention workshops on Grant Writing and Bullying.

Guest speakers included Mr. Larry Scott with Rachel’s Challenge, Mr. Todd Haiken with National PTA, motivational speaker, Mr. Scott Huse and Mrs. Jeri Powers, the Kansas Teacher of the Year. All of the speakers were informative and inspiring!

Convention takes a lot of hard work from a lot of people. I would like to thank the 2008 Convention Committee: Workshops, Tammy Bartels, Exhibitors/Sponsors/Ads, Patty Jurich, Finances, Sharon Rakos, Call to Convention and Convention Program, Shelly Pennington, Meeting Coordinator, Beth Brown, Silent Auction, Chris Akin, PTA Store, Sheila Bunnell, Local Committee, Sharalyn Davis, Janet Wood, Shelly Pennington. The Past State Presidents Laura Kaiser, Ernie Goerend, Merry Dee Hornbuckle and Gaila Hein gave the inspirations and shared their wisdom with us – thank you!

The YAC (Youth Advisory Committee) comprised of Kayla Crowe, Matthue Brown, Branden Brown, Jessica Rakos, Melissa Rakos, Andrea Vertz and Raychel Bunnell deserve a round of applause. Their recycling project was a hit with the attendees, they helped with door prizes and filled in wherever needed. You guys are awesome!

The entire Board of Managers of the Kansas PTA deserves a huge thank you – for putting in those late night hours getting ready for convention, presenting workshops, presiding at workshops, donating to the Silent Auction and performing so many other convention duties without a complaint. My hat is off to all of you --- you are simply the best! The convention was a success due to your hard work and dedication!

Debbie Lawson
Kansas PTA President Elect & 2008 Convention Chairman
OUR WISH FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

What Teachers Wish Parents Would Do:
- Be involved in all aspects of children’s lives.
- Provide resources at home for learning.
- Value education, emphasize the importance of learning skills for school and life.
- Help students balance school responsibilities and extra curricular activities.
- Support school polices, rules, and goals.
- Communicate often and openly with teachers.
- Teach children self discipline and respect for others.
- Accept responsibility and parents set a good example.
- Encourage children to do their best and to set realistic goals.

What Parents Wish Teachers Would Do:
- Help build students self esteem.
- Be sensitive to individual’s needs, interest, and special talents.
- Communicate often and openly with parents.
- Assign meaningful homework.
- Set high academic standards for all students.
- Show dedication and enthusiasm about teaching children.
- Treat all children fairly.
- Enforce positive discipline code based on clear and fair rules.
- Encourage parent involvement.
- Provide direction on how parents can work with children and their homework.

Adapted from the National PTA Talks to Parents: How to get the best Education for your child.

Shirlyn Richardson
Kansas PTA Parent Involvement Chair

National PTA Convention

PTA Annual National Convention & Exhibition
June 20-23, 2008
San Diego, California

Official Convention Site & Hotel
Town and Country Resort
San Diego, California

Plan to attend the National PTA Convention in San Diego, CA and get ideas on how to increase membership, hone your leadership skills, and do more for your school and PTA than ever before. Interact with PTA members from all over the country; explore exciting and informative exhibits; and raise your voice on important issues affecting PTA and all children.

Registration information will be posted at www.pta.org in early March.

NEW! Special discounts will be available for online registrations, multiple registrants from the same unit, new PTA units, and youth members!

Please notify Debbie Lawson at Debbie@burlislawson.com if you are attending so she can get the proper information and materials to you.

Debbie Lawson
Kansas PTA President-Elect
# 2007-2008 Kansas PTA Reflections Program Awards

“I can make a difference by...” was the theme for 2007-2008. Kansas PTA is pleased to announce the winners of the Reflections Program. They were recognized at the Awards Ceremony, March 8, 2008.

## Primary Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dance Choreography</strong></td>
<td>Aaron Coash§</td>
<td>West Elementary PTA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Alleman</td>
<td>Harmony Elementary PTA</td>
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<td>Anna Trofimoff</td>
<td>Brookridge Elementary PTA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Film/Video Production</strong></td>
<td>Peyton Watts§</td>
<td>Corinth Elementary PTA</td>
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<td><strong>Literature</strong></td>
<td>Gia Shipman§</td>
<td>Harmony Elementary PTA</td>
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<td>Jalah Danks</td>
<td>Hazel Grove Elementary PTA</td>
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<td>Ryan Ranzau</td>
<td>West Elementary PTA</td>
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<td>Joseph Brouillette</td>
<td>Belinder Elementary PTA</td>
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<td><strong>Musical Composition</strong></td>
<td>Isabelle Cunningham§</td>
<td>Corinthelementary PTA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jacob Hall</td>
<td>Harmony Elementary PTA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Photography</strong></td>
<td>Charles Martin§</td>
<td>Trailwood Elementary PTA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cole McClintic</td>
<td>Horizon Elementary PTA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Derek Barton</td>
<td>West Elementary PTA</td>
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<td><strong>Visual Arts</strong></td>
<td>Aaron Coash§</td>
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<td>Sal Scimeca</td>
<td>Westwood View Elementary PTA</td>
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<td>Simon Stevens</td>
<td>Tonganoxie Elementary PTA</td>
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<td>Cameron Kramer</td>
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## Intermediate Division

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<td><strong>Dance Choreography</strong></td>
<td>Surabhi Khachar§</td>
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<td><strong>Film/Video Production</strong></td>
<td>Brady Rolig§</td>
<td>Prairie Ridge Elementary PTA</td>
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<td><strong>Literature</strong></td>
<td>Alison Burke§</td>
<td>Prairie Ridge Elementary PTA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Abigail Sheahan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Zan Johnson</td>
<td>Mill Creek Elementary PTA</td>
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<td>Jeremy Stack</td>
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<td><strong>Musical Composition</strong></td>
<td>Clara Ma§</td>
<td>Sunflower Elementary PTA</td>
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<td>James Lowe</td>
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<td>Maisie Conrad</td>
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<td><strong>Photography</strong></td>
<td>Jonah Scott§</td>
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<td>Caitlin Starman</td>
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<td>Brian Fitzsimmons</td>
<td>Highlands Elementary School PTA</td>
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<td>Nikki Kuhn</td>
<td>Bentwood Elementary PTA</td>
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<td><strong>Visual Arts</strong></td>
<td>Ann McLean§</td>
<td>Harmony Elementary PTA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meg Szmed</td>
<td>Lansing Intermediate PTA</td>
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<td>Trenton Hawes</td>
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<td>Jonah Scott</td>
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## Middle/Junior Division

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<td><strong>Film/Video Production</strong></td>
<td>Thomas Allen§</td>
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<td>Mikayla Reine§</td>
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<td>Taylor Bickel</td>
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<td>Haley Alderman</td>
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<td><strong>Photography</strong></td>
<td>Griffin Rohlfing§</td>
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<td>JD Howard</td>
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<td>Nate Solger</td>
<td>Briarwood Elementary PTA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Visual Arts</strong></td>
<td>Madison Thomas§</td>
<td>Monticello Trails Middle School PTA</td>
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<td>Christina Rone</td>
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## Senior Division

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<td><strong>Literature</strong></td>
<td>Rachel Bernard§</td>
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<td>Danny Howard</td>
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<td><strong>Photography</strong></td>
<td>Alexandria Bartels§</td>
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<td>Laura Konecny</td>
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<td><strong>Visual Arts</strong></td>
<td>Vi Pham§</td>
<td>Shawnee Mission South High School PTA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Abigail Bennett</td>
<td>Sumner Academy of Arts &amp; Science PTA</td>
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*Denotes Award of Excellence. Remaining awards are Awards of Merit.
Strong Local Leadership

There are a number of ways to encourage strong local leadership. As a PTA leader it is your job to work yourself out of a job not to take the job with you.

**Encourage** leadership development training, which is available at all levels of PTA. Contact your district, council or State PTA for information available about training. Participate in the Keys to Leadership Program. Support training at your local unit by budgeting to send current and potential leaders to state and national conventions. Check websites [www.kansaspta.org](http://www.kansaspta.org) and [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) for more information.

**Cultivate** new leaders by involving all members in decision-making opportunities and hands on activities that will help them develop their leadership skills. Create a mentorship program where Kansas Board of Managers and/or another School will work as mentors to new leaders. Make sure that your PTA is creating transition support between leadership each year. It’s true that knowledge is power, but it’s even more powerful when you share it with like-minded people to achieve a common goal. Also, by delegating tasks to other leaders in the unit, you’re building a knowledgeable and experienced board.

**Sell the benefits** of PTA, such as the value of parent involvement; emphasize goals and outcomes, and how everyone gains from the work of the PTA. Develop a strategy within your membership development plan to communicate and involve school administrators in your activities on an ongoing basis. Be sure to communicate successes at the state levels that will impact your school community.

**Satisfaction with past PTA experience:** In order to grow, PTAs need to increase the number of satisfied members. Surveys can help you gauge the satisfaction level of your members so that needed adjustments can be made to increase overall members satisfaction. Getting continual feedback from your members is an important part of any PTA membership development plan. Surveys can be conducted at anytime during the membership year.

**Jill Molina**  
Kansas PTA Leadership Chair

Leadership Awards

Recipients of the Keys to Leadership, Level 1 have earned at least 100 points within a two year time period in various leadership activities. Recipients receive a beautiful certificate and a special blue “key” pin.

- Sarah Baker  
- Janell Keitner  
- Tracy Carey  
- Roberta Knecht  
- Tanda Castle  
- Sharon Rakos  
- Lauri DeNooy  
- Denise Sultz  
- John Gagnat  
- Marie Thomas

Recipients of the Keys to Leadership Level II have previously earned their Level 1 key and also completed 8 out of 14 offered activities. Recipients of Level II receive a beautiful certificate and a special red “key” with crystal chip.

- Chris Akin  
- Julie Howard

The Unit Level award for the Keys to Leadership program recognizes units which have met at least 12 out of 16 requirements in the area of School PTA participation. The units being honored this year are:

- Apache Elementary  
- East Antioch Elementary  
- Overland Park Elementary  
- Turner Council PTA

**Jill Molina**  
Kansas PTA Leadership Chair

NEW OFFICER FORM REMINDER!

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. In PTA land that means the end of a school year is upon us. Has your unit had elections? Have you submitted the new officer form to the State PTA office? This year, in order for your unit to receive the summer packet material – we will need this form turned. Don’t be left out, there is amazing information to help your unit grow and be even better than it already is!
Do You Have a Healthy School?

How do you know if you have a healthy school? If you aren’t sure, here are some steps you can take to make it happen.

Have a Health and Wellness Chair on your Board to bring health issues to your meetings.

- Sponsor a Health Fair with a physical activity for the students and healthy eating for all. Look for grants if money is an issue
- Check and see if your school or school district promote healthy eating. If they don’t, try to make awareness a goal of your group.
- See if your school or school district provide a maximum number of opportunities for the students to get physical activity even if it is not in physical education class.
- Promote non-smoking and non-drinking initiatives.
- Try making one of your teacher luncheon’s health conscious.
- Encourage teachers to make student rewards non-food related.
- Suggest healthy alternatives for classroom parties.
- Bring fruit and vegetables as snacks at PTA meetings.
- Establish walk-a-thons when you need a new fundraising idea.

Check out www.healthykansas2010.com and commit to a healthy lifestyle!!

Denise Sultz
Kansas PTA Health and Wellness Chair

OMDR News

The OMDR website is ready for the 2008-2009 Membership Year entries! There are some new and improved ways to use the OMDR Site.

1. You can now upload your EXCEL membership list (with the 22 Fields) directly. No more conversions!
2. You can now designate your members as adults, teachers, or students. Students will not as a general rule, be sent member benefits mailings. To use this new feature in the membership file upload, use the position code – (MBR – adult, STUDENT – Student, TEACHER – teacher). The member entry and update screens now include this new feature.

If you were on OMDR last year, just use the Member Renewal Feature. It’s fast and easy!

Be on the lookout for more improvements in August to the OMDR Site. More OMDR information will be coming in the Kansas PTA Summer Packet. OMDR Workshops coming up are at the following Region Meetings:

Region 6 – May 7th
Region 8 – May 14th
Region 4 – June 28th
Region 3 – early September

I enjoyed meeting many of you at Convention at my OMDR Workshop. I’m sure you gained more knowledge about OMDR! I am looking forward to working with many more of you in the Fall. Please do not hesitate to call or email me with you questions or problems.

Marie Thomas
Kansas PTA OMDR Chair
2008—2009 General Membership Awards

**Early Bird Award** – Initial membership dues submitted by October 1st.
**Meadowlark Award** – Early Birds who submit an additional 25 members by January 15th.
**Golden Apple Award** – Units with 100% membership of full-time certified staff.
**One Voice for Every Child Award** – Membership total is equal to or greater than the number of students enrolled in the school.
**Challenge Award** – Units with 5% membership increase over the previous year’s membership total.
**Kansas Honor Roll** – Units with membership equal to or greater than 60% of their enrollment.
**Community Outreach Award** – Units with at least 10 non-traditional members.
**Making a Difference Award** – Units with at least 15% member increase over the previous year’s membership total.

**Special Membership Awards**
(determined by the state membership committee)

**Council Achievement Award** - Councils that have each of their units in Good Standing (Bylaws current, officer names submitted, and dues submitted) and receiving one (1) or more general membership award.

**Tomorrow’s Leaders Today Award** - Awarded to the one PTSA unit with the highest percentage of student memberships. The unit must have a minimum of twenty (20) student members.

**Male Involvement Award** – Awarded to the one (1) PTA/PTSA unit with the highest percentage of male memberships. The unit must have a minimum of twenty (20) male members.

**President’s Challenge Award** – Units with at least 25% member increase over the previous year’s membership total.

**Gold Award** – Awarded to the one (1) unit with the greatest increase in membership numbers.

**Silver Award** – Awarded to the one (1) unit with the greatest percentage increase in membership.

**State Board Awards**
(determined by the state membership committee)

**Sunflower Award** – Awarded to the Region VP with the greatest percentage increase in membership.
**Heartland Award** – Awarded to the Region VP that adds the most units.

2008-2009 Kansas PTA Membership Theme

“Keys to Success”

Parents, Teachers & Staff, Students, Community

We ALL hold a key to success, use your key and JOIN PTA!
Convention Highlights

2007-2008 Phoebe Apperson Hearst National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award

The Phoebe Apperson Hearst – National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award recognizes PTA’s whose collaborative efforts with parents, families, educators, and community members promote parent/family involvement in ongoing programs that support and encourage student success.

The success of students is the responsibility not only of families and schools, but also of communities. Though the nature of the responsibility varies, everyone can contribute in a meaningful way. Effective partnerships involve families, students, schools, and communities, and inform all these stakeholders of how their collaborative efforts can create better programs and opportunities that lead to the success of students.

Kansas PTA is proud to announce that Rushton Elementary School PTA in Mission is the state winner. In an effort to be the safest community they can be Rushton Elementary School PTA has adopted the Risk Watch Safe Community Program for not only their students, but also all of the families of Mission and it’s surrounding communities. Risk Watch was developed by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) to reach more kids with important life saving messages. Rushton PTA has developed partners for this program within their community. Some of those partners include Keystone Chrysler of Mission, Kansas, Quiktrip of Mission, Kansas, Ron Giersch Agency with Allstate Insurance Company in Mission, Kansas, and Robert Crossley. As this is a National PTA award, Kansas PTA will be forwarding the entry from Rushton PTA as well as two additional entries from Shawnee Mission West High School PTSA, Overland Park, and McLean Elementary PTA, Wichita.

KANSAS PTA 2008 OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR of the YEAR

Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers is proud to announce Sue Elliott, Kansas PTA Outstanding Educator of the Year. Sue Elliott is the Principal of Hazel Grove Elementary School in Kansas City, Kansas, USD 500 School District. Jan Goetz, PTA President said. “As Principal of Hazel Grove Elementary School Sue has been steadfast in her support of PTA, and exemplifies the objects of PTA. She not only works to educate our children, but she also supports many programs through the school and community to improve the quality of family and community life of our children”. Among the many educational achievements that Sue has gained, she also continues to expand her professional knowledge while working toward an endorsement in English Language Learning at Kansas State University. Her continuing pursuit of knowledge only solidifies the statement made by Stacey Smith, 2nd grade teacher. “It has been said that teachers impacts lives of our students everyday, and Sue not only impacts the students of Hazel Grove but also those who have the honor and privilege to work with such an amazing principal”. Sue’s commitment and support extends well beyond the school walls. She is an active member in her church and through programs at Hazel Grove, supports community organizations such as the Willa Gill Center, and St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. Bridget Locke, parent and PTA member sums up the feelings of those who know Sue. “Anyone with a title and little bit of tenacity can easily be labeled a leader, but it takes an especially gifted person to be the type of leader that others flock to follow”.

Pictured (left to right) Jan Long, Kansas PTA President, Todd Haiken, National PTA Public Policy Specialist, Monica Roy, Rushton PTA President, Robin Duklow, PTA member.

Pictured (left to right) Jan Long, Kansas PTA President, Sue Elliott is the Principal of Hazel Grove Elementary School in Kansas City, Kansas, USD 500 School District.
Local PTAs are doing great things all the time. The National PTA Unit Achievement Awards recognize and celebrate that fact. To receive an achievement award certificate, a local PTA must fulfill four easy-to-accomplish requirements.

- Obtain a 5 percent net increase in membership or have a minimum of one PTA member per student in the school(s) served by your PTA.
- Conduct a program or project that provides an opportunity for parents to be involved in the school.
- Host a program or project designed to increase awareness among parents about issues that affect student achievement or school success.
- Have representatives from your unit participates in your state PTAs convention or another state-sponsored event.

2007 – 2008 Recipients:

- Shawnee Mission West PTSA
- Stony Point North Elementary PTA
- Kansas City

KANSAS PTA 2008 OUTSTANDING STUDENT of the YEAR

Matthue Brown attends Sumner Academy of Arts & Sciences in Kansas City, KS and is a member of their PTSA, as well as Hazel Grove PTA and the KS PTA Youth Advisory Committee. He served on the Fall Festival committee for Hazel Grove and helped build and run the haunted house. Last year he worked at Frank Rushton Elementary on a weekly basis with the 1st graders and volunteered with the Stony Point North PTA when they built their playground. He has worked at an elementary school 2-3 times a week during their summer school program and will assist at an upcoming town hall meeting on underage drinking. As well as all his volunteer work, Matthue has worked part time at a restaurant since he was 14 and maintained his school work. He currently serves as the student Chairman of the KS PTA Youth Advisory Committee (YAC).
**Convention Highlights cont’...**

**2007-2008**

**Special Membership Awards**
(determined by the state membership committee)

**Council Achievement Award** – Desoto Area PTA Council  
(Awarded to the council with each of their units in good standing (bylaws current, officer names submitted, dues submitted) and receiving one (1) or more general membership awards.)

**Tomorrow’s Leaders Today Award** – Shawnee Mission West PTSA  
(Awarded to the one (1) PTSA unit with the highest percentage of student memberships. The unit must have a minimum of 20 student members.)

**President’s Challenge Award** – Wilroads Garden PTA, Enterprise Elem PTA, Kelly Elem PTA, Linwood Elem PTA, Washington Elem PTA, Amanda Arnold Elem PTA, Fort Riley Elem PTA, Lincoln Elem PTA, Northview Elem PTA, South Middle School PTA, Cordley Elem PTA, Monticello Trails Middle School PTA, Emerson Elem PTA, FL Schlagle High School PTSA, Lansing PTA, Noble Prentis Elem PTA, Silver City Elem PTA, Stony Point North Elem PTA, Turner Early Learning Center PTA, Indian Woods Middle School PTA, Rushton Elem PTA  
(Awarded to units with a 25% increase over last year’s membership total.)

**Gold Award** – Monitcello Trails Middle School PTA  
(Awarded to the one (1) unit with the greatest increase in membership numbers.)

**Silver Award** – Noble Prentis Elementary PTA  
(Awarded to the one (1) unit with the greatest percentage increase in membership.)

**2007-2008**

**State Board Awards**
(determined by the state membership committee)

**Sunflower Award** – Region 4, VP Janet Wood  
(Awarded to the region with the greatest percentage increase in membership)

**Heartland Award** – Region 7, VP Monica Crowe  
(Awarded to the region that adds the most units)

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**94th PTA Convention Silent Auction**

Thanks to all of the businesses, PTA’s and members who donated the 39 baskets to this year’s “Dollars for Scholars” Silent Auction! The support of our members was outstanding with generous bids that made our grand total this year of $1298! The Kansas PTA Scholarship fund will now be able to provide scholarships for our future Kansas Educators. Can’t wait to see what we can raise next year in Lawrence!

**Chris Akin**  
Silent Auction Chair
KANSAS PTA VIRGINIA PEAK AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

This award annually recognizes an individual who has given distinguished service to the children and youth in Kansas. It is named for Virginia Peak who faithfully served Kansas PTA on the local, council and state levels for over twenty-five years. She dedicated her time and talents to advocate on behalf of all children. Virginia was a good communicator, excellent problem solver, talented teacher, great motivator and a compassionate friend.

With the presentation of this award, Kansas PTA honors a leader who has gone above and beyond in dedication to the children and youth of Kansas and whose sustained commitment to excellence over many years has made a positive difference in the lives of children.

Kansas PTA is pleased to announce that Tammy Bartels is the 2008 recipient.

Virginia Peak Award Recipients
1999: Marjorie Holwick  
2000: Debbie Taylor  
2001: Judi Tucci
2002: Jan Long  
2003: Janet Waugh  
2004: Teri Kelly
2005: Gail Vertz  
2006: Nancy Ryan  
2007: Vicki Needham

MARJORIE HOLWICK KANSAS PTA WALL OF FAME

The Marjorie Holwick Kansas PTA Wall of Fame is a special recognition program to honor educators, parents, students, and volunteers who have made special contributions in the lives of children. Each year PTA members from across the state nominate these outstanding volunteers to the Marjorie Holwick Kansas PTA Hall of Fame.

I am happy to announce that the following individuals were named to this years Marjorie Holwick Kansas PTA Wall of Fame:

Mr. Michael Weiler, Principal, Apache Elementary  
Mrs. Helen Helvey, Apache Elementary  
Mrs. Eileen Thoni, Apache Elementary  
Karen Esser, Overland Park Elementary  
Brenda Jackson, Wyandotte High School  
Jocelyn Gaitan, Wyandotte High School  
Camille Neidhart, Wyandotte High School  
Dr. Susan Swift, Shawnee Mission East High  
Cynthia Jarrold, Shawnee Mission East High

Dr. Marjorie Kaplin, Shawnee Mission School District  
Lauri DeNooy, Apache Elementary  
Paula Hill, Starside Elementary  
Jay Douglas, Principal, Junction Elementary  
Dr. Sharon Zoellner, DeSoto USD 232  
Dawn Lalumondier, Comanche Elementary  
Tara Vargas, Comanche Elementary  
Emily Berns, Comanche Elementary

Congratulations on being named to the Marjorie Holwick Kansas PTA Wall of Fame! PTA members greatly value your dedication and commitment and thank you for making a very important difference in the lives of our children!

The proceeds from these nominations are contributions to the Kansas PTA Future Teacher Scholarship Fund and Teacher Graduate Study in Education Fund. For more information on nominating someone to the Marjorie Holwick Kansas PTA Wall of Fame or about the scholarship program, contact our state office at 785-234-5782 or visit our website (www.kansas-pta.org).

Patty Jurich,  
Kansas PTA Scholarship Chairman
Convention Highlights cont’...

Selected #1 for School Groups by Fundraiser Watchdog

A Fundraiser they Will Love!

Created Especially for Elementary Schools, this Wonderful Fundraiser Program is so simple and exciting. T.A. Hamilton is a Fantastic Showman and is beloved by Adults and Kids alike. Available Monday-Thursday only. This is the right choice for groups that do not have 100 or more students or a facility large enough to host the Full Evening Show - “ASTONISHMENT” (see below).

No Cost! No Risk! No Advance Ticket Sales! No Headaches! Just a GREAT TIME for Your Students and their Families. This will be one of the highlights of the year. Book Your Date Now to assure that your school is on the schedule and locked in for this upcoming year.

NO COST! NO RISK!

Astonishment FUNDRAISER PROGRAM

Can a Lady Appear from Nothing? Be Sawed In Half? Can She really Float in the Air? Yes and Much More... This is the EIC SHOW- A Full Evening 2 hr Program featuring Comedy, Magic, Ventrilocuism and Grand Illusion as seen on TV. This is the program that you will want to bring back each and every year because your community will be screaming for tickets and your group will make a lot of money for your treasury. Many Piggy Back Promotions are possible and all the work has been done for you. We provide Tickets, Posters, and a Handbook detailing the correct operation of the promotion to maximise the potential of the event. Don’t delay, Dates are limited and we want to bring you this great show. Multiple Shows for groups with limited seating capacities. The ultimate Fundraiser Program! We’ll show you how your group can make $5k and more in one single night and have a great time doing it.

Interested? Call Mr. Kurt Tatro Now... 402-366-0401
Drake, Jackson & Tatro Talent Resources LLC www.DrakeJacksonTatro.com

Comanche PTA

Comanche Elementary PTA would like to thank...

Denise Sultz

For outstanding leadership and stepping up when no one else would. You are truly one in a million and we love you!!

Thank You
We’ve called you boss, principal, mentor, teacher and friend…

…and now, we can add “Kansas PTA Educator of the Year” to the list!

Congratulations, Mrs. Sue Elliott!
You are truly amazing – and very deserving of this wonderful honor.

Submitted with love and pride,
Hazel Grove Elementary School, staff, students and parents
The Chore Kit

**du Jour**

Help your child help you!

An easy, effective chore kit for children
Can be customized for all ages and any size family

_Great Fundraiser for busy families!

Retail price: $12.95
PTA Profit: $6.00 per kit!

e-mail to:
renee@kitsandkaboodles.com

It's "sweeping" the country...literally!
## Kansas PTA Board Roster

### State Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Jan Long</td>
<td>1400 Louise Lane, Salina, KS 67401</td>
<td>785-827-9996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Debbie Lawson</td>
<td>15719 W. 86th St., Lenexa, KS 66219</td>
<td>913-541-0806</td>
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<tr>
<td>VP Advocacy</td>
<td>Jackie Waters</td>
<td>1417 Loring, Hayville, KS 67060</td>
<td>316-522-0706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP Extension Services</td>
<td>Tammy Bartels</td>
<td>504 S. Delaware, P.O. Box 393, Tonganoxie, KS 66086</td>
<td>913-417-7031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP Member Services</td>
<td>Beth Brown</td>
<td>2400 N. 62nd Street, Kansas City, KS 66104</td>
<td>913-271-5955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Patty Jurich</td>
<td>6125 Kimball, Kansas City, KS 66104</td>
<td>913-334-6051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Sharon Rakos</td>
<td>10902 W. 144th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66221</td>
<td>913-708-5501</td>
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### Region Vice Presidents

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<tr>
<th>Region 1 Vice President</th>
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<tr>
<td>Region 2 Vice President</td>
<td>Sheryl Peak</td>
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<td>Region 3 Vice President</td>
<td>MedShawn Morse</td>
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<td>Region 4 Vice President</td>
<td>Janet Wood</td>
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<td>Region 5 Vice President</td>
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<td>Region 6 Vice President</td>
<td>Chris Akin</td>
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<td>Region 7 Vice President</td>
<td>Monica Crowe</td>
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<td>Region 8 Vice President</td>
<td>Cynthia Jarrold</td>
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### State Chairman

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<th>Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Debbie Lawson</td>
<td>15719 W. 86th Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66219</td>
<td>913-541-0806</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts in Education &amp; Awards</td>
<td>Peg Newton</td>
<td>34040 W. 84th Terrace, DeSoto, KS 66018</td>
<td>913-383-1917</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Committee</td>
<td>Sharon Rakos</td>
<td>10902 W. 144th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66221</td>
<td>913-708-5501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulletin Editor</td>
<td>Shelly Pennington</td>
<td>310 E. Minneapolis Ave., Salina, KS 67401</td>
<td>785-820-0200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Legislative</td>
<td>Jackie Waters</td>
<td>1417 Loring, Hayville, KS 67060</td>
<td>316-522-0706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness</td>
<td>Denise Sulz</td>
<td>9311 W. 81st Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66204</td>
<td>913-381-7824</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>Kayla Crowe</td>
<td>3047 N. 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS 66104</td>
<td>913-299-3583</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
<td>Beth Brown</td>
<td>2400 N. 62nd Street, Kansas City, KS 66104</td>
<td>913-271-5955</td>
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<tr>
<td>OMDR</td>
<td>Marie Thomas</td>
<td>22833 W. 44th Street, Shawnee, KS 66226</td>
<td>913-422-7841</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Involvement</td>
<td>Shirllyn Richardson</td>
<td>2709 N. 13th Street, Kansas City, KS 66104</td>
<td>913-371-4309</td>
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<td>State Bylaws</td>
<td>DeAnna Bowers</td>
<td>504 S. Delaware Ave., Salina, KS 67401</td>
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<td>State Legislative</td>
<td>Nancy Niles Lusk</td>
<td>7700 W. 83rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66204</td>
<td>913-648-2616</td>
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<td>State Extension</td>
<td>Diana Faber</td>
<td>5607 Crest Drive, Kansas City, KS 66106</td>
<td>913-375-1644</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>Robert DeNooy</td>
<td>12216 W. 93rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66215</td>
<td>913-548-2254</td>
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### Consultants / Committee Appointments

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<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Laura Kaiser</td>
<td>5222 W. 98th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66207</td>
<td>913-341-3078</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Nominating &amp; Leadership Dev</td>
<td>Vicki Needham</td>
<td>20918 W. 71st Street, Shawnee, KS 66218</td>
<td>913-441-0110</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Parliamentarian</td>
<td>Ernie Goerend</td>
<td>576 South Delaware Ave., Salina, KS 67401</td>
<td>785-825-6503</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Reflections</td>
<td>Heather Newton</td>
<td>34040 W. 84th Terrace, DeSoto, KS 66018</td>
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### Council Presidents

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<tr>
<td>*DeSoto</td>
<td>John Gaignet</td>
<td>913-422-1826</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Kansas City</td>
<td>Paula Fein-Falcoff</td>
<td>913-328-1256</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Salina</td>
<td>Sharyln Davis</td>
<td>785-825-8152</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Shawnee Mission</td>
<td>Cynthia Jarrold</td>
<td>913-381-1543</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Turner</td>
<td>Julie Howard</td>
<td>913-262-9473</td>
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### Office Support

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<tr>
<td>*Kansas PTA Executive Director</td>
<td>Sherrelyn Smith</td>
<td>913-402-8141</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Office Secretary</td>
<td>Sharon Julian</td>
<td>785-234-5782</td>
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*Not a board position.*

This issue of the Bulletin is available on our website. Emails are available on the website.

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**Kansas PTA State Office**

715 S.W. Tenth Street  
Topeka, KS 66612-1686  
1-888-311-5782, 785-234-KPTA, Fax: 785-234-4170  
kansaspta@gmail.com, www.kansas-pta.org

**National PTA**

541 N. Fairbanks Court, Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60611-3396  
1-800-307-4PTA (4782)—312-670-6782, Fax: 312-670-6783  
info@pta.org, www.pta.org
MAY

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- Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month
- National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- National Bike Month
  - 1 2008 Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant Deadline
  - 4 PTA Teacher Appreciation Week begins
  - 6 National Teacher Day
  - 11 Mother’s Day
  - 25 National Missing Children’s Day
  - 26 Memorial Day

JUNE

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- National Safety Month
- National Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Month
  - 15 Father’s Day
  - 20-23 PTA National Convention & Exhibition

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

IMPORTANT DATES

PTA National Convention & Exhibition
June 20-23, 2008
San Diego, CA

Legislative Training Day
October 11, 2008

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